



The Spirit of Night

from a painting by

Frances Bassett Comstock

“MY PICTURE, ‘The Spirit of Night,’” writes Frances Bassett Comstock, “is the outgrowth of a desire to build a picture based on the Greek conception of Nyx, the goddess of night,—the daughter of Chaos, who was supposed to be the mother of sleep, death and dreams,—all mysterious, inexplicable things. But I’m afraid my own motherhood stood in between myself and the classics, for as I worked my babies deposed the pagan superstition, and mother love and babies’ desire to cuddle at twilight took its place. The bats are the only sinister things in the painting that really suggest the mystery of night.”

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